

REMARKS

In the claims, claims 3, 6, 9, 14, 16, 20-22, and 25-29 have been amended and claims 1, 4-5, 13, 15, 19, and 23-24 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. No new claims have been added.

Claims 3, 6, 9-12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, and 25-29 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 6, 9, 14, 16, 20-22, and 25 are the independent claims.

Second Non-Final Office Action (Mailed on March 10, 2005)

In the above-cited Office Action, claims 1, 3-6, and 9-29 were pending. Due to clerical error, reference to claims 26-29 was omitted. Claims 26-29 depend from claim 25, which the Examiner has noted as containing allowable subject matter.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (USPN 5,890,306).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection. However, to expedite allowance of this case, the Applicant has canceled claim 1 without disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein, and further, intends to submit the same in a continuation. Therefore, this rejection is now rendered moot.

Rejections of Claims 1, 4-5, 14, 19, and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-5, 14, 19, and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Burgess et al. (USPN 2,029,221) in view of Smith (USPN 5,890,306) and Munter et al. (USPN 6,658,774).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. However, to expedite allowance of this case, the Applicant has canceled claims 1, 4-5, 14, 19, and 23-24 without disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and further, intends to submit the same in the continuation noted above. Therefore, these rejections are now rendered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 6, 9-12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, and 25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claims 1 and 4.

Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9.

Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 13.

Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claims 13 and 15. Claims 17-18 depend from claim 16.

Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claims 13 and 19.

Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 13.

Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 13.

Claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 23. Claims 26-29 depend from claim 25.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 6, 9-12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, and 25-29 respectfully recite allowable subject matter, and are now in condition for allowance.

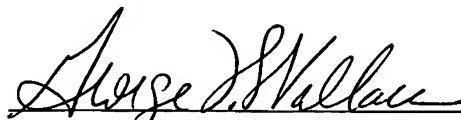
REQUESTED ACTION

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 6, 9-12, 14, 16-18, 20-22, and 25-29 respectfully recite allowable subject matter and are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment, and allowance of the above noted allowable claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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